

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:DLFIELD, JR.:MFG
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EA/TIMBS - ROBERT FRITTS
S/S -TMARTIN

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P 250047Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 132712

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS - 1 AND 2

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: UTILIZATION OF INC-PROVIDED AIRCRAFT

REFS: A. RANGOON 1633; B. RANGOON 1304; C. RANGOON 1289;
D. STATE 090518; E. RANGOON 1808

1. PARAGRAPH 6 OF REFTEL (A) INDICATED THAT EMBASSY WOULD BE PURSUING REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UTILIZATION OF INC-PROVIDED AIRCRAFT. AFTER CONSIDERING THIS PROBLEM IN THE LIGHT OF RECENT CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST AND THE GUB'S POSITION ON THIS MATTER, WE CONCUR THAT THE EMBASSY SHOULD FOLLOW-UP WITH U SHWE RATHER THAN BY REQUESTING FORMAL UTILIZATION REPORTS FROM THE GUB. WE WOULD INCORPORATE THE INFORMATION OBTAINED IN A REPORT TO THE CONGRESS, CONFORMING TO THE HIRC REPORT.

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2. IT WILL, OF COURSE, ALSO BE IMPORTANT FOR THE EMBASSY TO CONTINUE INDEPENDENT MONITORING TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE OF END-USE OF INC-PROVIDED AIRCRAFT. WE ANTICIPATE, HOWEVER, THAT OBTAINING A USEFUL CONTINUING FLOW OF INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT FROM THE BURMESE IS LIKELY TO BE DIFFICULT. WE WILL NEED TO EVALUATE THEIR RESPONSE CAREFULLY AND CONSIDER THE DEGREE OF DETAIL CONSIDERED NECES-

SARY. WE ALSO SUGGEST THAT THE BEST EMBASSY ROLE WOULD BE TO MAKE SPECIFIC REPRESENTATIONS AT A HIGH LEVEL WHEN

VIOLATIONS ARE ALLEGED RATHER THAN APPEAR TO BE LOOKING OVER THE SHOULDER OF THE BURMA ARMY ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS.

3. DEPARTMENT AGREES TO SENDING A LETTER TO U SHWE THAN ON THIS SUBJECT. WE WOULD PROPOSE, HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE. BEGIN TEXT:

I GREATLY APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THE MINISTER OF HOME AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND DISCUSS OUR MUTUAL INTEREST IN SUCCESSFUL NARCOTICS CONTROL IN BURMA. WE CONTINUE TO BE APPRECIATIVE OF THE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EFFORTS OF THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT THAT CONTRIBUTE SO IMPORTANTLY TO OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS. AS YOU WILL RECALL, THE MINISTER AND I AGREED THAT WE WOULD PURSUE OUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON UTILIZATION OF US-PROVIDED AIRCRAFT WITH YOU.

WE WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST AS PART OF OUR ONGOING EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE THE FOLLOWING DATA CONCERNING US-PROVIDED EQUIPMENT:

A. TOTAL HOURS FLOWN, BY AIRCRAFT TYPE, AND HOURS FLOWN
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FOR (1) ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY RELATED TO NARCOTICS CONTROL, SUCH AS THOSE AGAINST REFINERY INSTALLATIONS, CARAVANS, POPPY FIELDS, ETC.; (2) ACTIVITIES INCIDENTALLY RELATED TO NARCOTICS CONTROL, ALONG WITH AN INDICATION OF HOW THEY ARE SO RELATED; (3) TRAINING MAINTENANCE, AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS.

B. MAINTENANCE AVAILABILITY RATE (EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF AIRCRAFT FLYABLE DURING A ONE-MONTH PERIOD).

C. GENERAL LOCATION OF THE AIRCRAFT.

IT WOULD GREATLY ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN JUSTIFYING OUR EXPENDITURES UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM TO THE CONGRESS IF THIS INFORMATION COULD ALSO BE PROVIDED IN THE FUTURE ON A QUARTERLY BASIS BEGINNING IN OCTOBER.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT AS WE INCREASE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NARCOTICS MATTERS EVEN GREATER COOPERATION IN THIS IMPORTANT EFFORT WILL BE POSSIBLE, A RESULT WHICH WILL REDOUND TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS AS

WELL AS TO THE WELFARE OF BOTH THE AMERICAN AND BURMESE
PEOPLES. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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